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Circular on Account of Cholera.

The following circular relative to passengers and freight bound to the United States was issued by Surg. Irwin at Yokohama:

**CIRCULAR LETTER TO AGENTS, OWNERS, AND MASTERS OF VESSELS
REQUIRING BILLS OF HEALTH FROM THIS OFFICE.**

GENTLEMEN: In view of the rapid spread of cholera in Japan, and particularly because of its appearance at Tokyo and Yokohama, the following regulations of the United States Public Health Service are promulgated, to be observed as preliminary to granting a bill of health to vessels bound for ports of the United States or any of its dependencies:

1. All second-class and steerage passengers required to undergo a period of detention of five days under observation at Yokohama.

2. Passengers should not be permitted to carry food of any description which is intended to be eaten uncooked upon the vessel.

3. Medical officers are requested upon arrival at this port to call at this office to furnish information concerning the sanitary history of the ship on last voyage.

4. All second-hand clothing sent as freight must be disinfected.

5. Second-class and steerage passengers and crew should not be allowed shore liberty while vessel is in port.

6. The baggage of second-class passengers coming from infected localities must be disinfected, as well as baggage of steerage passengers.

7. The following articles must not be shipped unless it can be clearly shown that they come from noninfected districts and so packed that they can not be contaminated en route, viz: Unsalted meats, sausages, dressed poultry, fresh milk, fresh cheese, fresh fruits and vegetables.

8. The circular of September 18, 1912, requiring 10 days' detention, is hereby revoked.

Respectfully,

FAIRFAX IRWIN,
Surgeon, United States Public Health Service.

NEW ZEALAND.**Auckland—Examination of Rats.**

The following information was taken from bulletins issued by the department of health of New Zealand: During the four weeks ended September 14, 1912, there were examined at Auckland for plague infection 506 rats. No plague-infected rat was found.

PORTO RICO.**Plague Situation.**

Passed Asst. Surg. Creel reports:

Rats examined October 5 to 12, 1912.

All Porto Rico.....	1,794
San Juan municipality:	
San Juan.....	145
Puerta de Tierra.....	49
Santurce.....	259

A summary of the plague situation to October 12, 1912, including human and rodent cases, reported or discovered, was as follows: Rats examined, 22,139; rats found infected, 63; human cases, 56; deaths, 36.

October 30 a plague-infected rat was reported to have been found at Arecibo.

RUSSIA.

Astrakhan—Summary of Plague.

The first case of plague in the government of Astrakhan was reported in the district of Tchernoyarsk July 4, 1912, and to September 8 the total number of cases reported in the district was 32 with 24 deaths. On July 29 an outbreak of plague occurred in the Tsarevsk district with a total to September 8 of 17 cases with 13 deaths. In the Kirghis Steppe from August 21 to September 1 there were reported 6 cases of plague with 4 deaths occurring in one village. The total number of cases of plague reported in the government of Astrakhan to September 8 was 55 with 41 deaths.

Typhus fever.

Typhus fever has been reported in Russia as follows: Reval, month of August, 1912, 25 cases; Warsaw, week ended July 6, 1912, 4 cases, with 1 death.

ZANZIBAR.

Zanzibar—Examination of rats.

Consul Weddell reports that during the three weeks ended September 15, 1912, there were examined for plague infection 5,527 rats. No plague-infected rat was found.

MOVEMENTS OF INFECTED VESSELS.¹

CHOLERA.

Russian vessel, Nagasaki, Japan, August 10 and 13, 1912, 2 cases of cholera in personnel of vessel. (Name of vessel and its itinerary not given.)

Otaru Maru, Nagasaki, Japan, August 23, 1912, from Shanghai, 1 case of cholera in crew.

Kuchinotsu, Japan, August 29, 1912, from Shanghai, via Nagasaki, 1 case of cholera on board.

Yokohama Maru, Moji, Japan, August 21, 1912, from Hongkong, August 13, via Shanghai August 18, 1 case of cholera in the person of a first-class passenger; August 29 another case on board.

Mexico Maru, Moji, Japan, August 29, 1912, from Hongkong August 17, via Shanghai, 4 cases of cholera on board.

Penza, Nagasaki, Japan, August 29, 1912, from Shanghai, 1 case of cholera on board.

Seiun Maru, Nagasaki, Japan, August 29, 1912, from Shanghai, 4 cases of cholera on board.

¹ Reported since July 1, 1912.